PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1872.

REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

WESTBURY & WHORWELLSDOWN RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

For the Year 1905.

Presented to the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural District Council by

WALTER H. REED,

Medical Officer of Health of the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural Sanitary Authority.

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REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health of the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural District for the Year 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report (with the Statistical Schedules required by the Local Government Board) on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the several Parishes in your area.

The Area of the District is 27,118 acres.

The Population at the last census was 6404.

The Births registered during the year were:

WESTBURY - -	Males, 36;	Females, 38;	Total, 74.
NORTH BRADLEY -	Males, 35;	Females, 39;	Total, 74.
Total for the whole District -			148.

The Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated population of 6581 is 22·4.

The Deaths registered during the year were:

WESTBURY - -	Males, 21;	Females, 19;	Total, 40.
NORTH BRADLEY -	Males, 10;	Females, 20;	Total, 30.
Total for the whole District -			70.

The Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated population of 6581 is 10·6.

Infant Mortality is exceedingly low for the past year, there being only four deaths recorded under twelve months old. This gives a percentage of 27·0 per 1000 on the registered births.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—Twenty-five cases of infectious diseases have been notified to me, viz: Diphtheria, 8; Erysipelas, 8; Scarlet Fever, 8; Enteric Fever, 1.

Diphtheria.—The first outbreak was at an isolated farm on Coulston Hill. I tested the water of a deep well which supplied the farm and found it contaminated with drainage from the farm-yard where it was situated. This has been cleaned out, and the mouth of the well raised to prevent any overflow. The water is now good. Several cases occurred some weeks afterwards at Coulston Village and one at Edington. For the former I could find no cause except that the weather was cold, wet, and depressing, and there was quite an epidemic of sore throats at the time in the village. The case at Edington was fatal, and I attribute it to the insanitary condition of the cottage and its surroundings (since remedied).

Scarlet Fever.—The cases of Scarlet Fever were isolated cases. Four cases occurred in one house at Edington, but did not spread beyond that house. The other four cases occurred at West Ashton, Bratton, Hisomley and North Bradley. The cases were all kept as isolated as possible, and the families carried out my instructions. In future I hope these cases will be removed to the new Isolation Hospital at once so that the homes may be comparatively safe for the other residents.

Water Supply.—The Local Government Board having sanctioned the scheme for the supply of water at Chapmanslade it is to be hoped that the work will be carried out at an early date as a proper water supply is much needed.

With regard to the Steeple Ashton water supply I fear this scheme is in abeyance, but I hope the matter will soon be taken up by the Council and a supply provided for the village.

The past year has been an exceptionally healthy one for the whole district. There has been no serious epidemic, and the percentage of mortality is low.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER H. REED, M.O.H.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages.		Nett Deaths at all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate.*	Number	Rate.*
1895	10398	262	25·1	23	87·7	160	15·0	160	15·0
1896	10415	212	20·3	26	122·6	135	12·9	135	12·9
1897	10471	248	23·6	43	173·3	154	14·7	154	14·7
1898	10541	207	19·6	19	91·7	137	12·9	137	12·9
1899	10591	245	23·1	18	73·4	139	13·1	139	13·1
1900	6829	156	20·8	18	115·6	103	15·7	103	15·7
1901	6404	145	22·6	11	75·8	92	14·3	92	14·3
1902	6404	139	21·7	10	71·9	98	15·3	98	15·3
1903	6445	148	22·9	9	60·8	90	13·9	90	13·9
1904	6563	146	22·2	18	123·3	86	13·1	86	13·1
Averages for years 1895—1904	8506	190	22·3	19	100·0	119	13·9	119	13·9
1905	6581	148	22·4	4	27·0	70	10·6	70	10·6

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) .....27,118.

Total population at all ages.....6,404
Number of inhabited houses .....2,413 } At Census of 1901.
Average number of persons per house ..... 2·6

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.....None

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.....Combined Infectious Hospital at Trowbridge.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District ...None.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? .....No.

Table 2.—Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1905 and previous Years.

Names of Localities.	Whole District.				Westbury.				North Bradley.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1895	10398	262	160	23	6662	160	108	17	3736	102	52	6
1896	10415	212	135	26	6628	136	84	20	3787	76	51	6
1897	10471	248	154	43	6659	169	106	29	3812	79	48	14
1898	10541	207	137	19	6698	136	98	15	3843	71	39	4
1899	10591	245	139	18	6736	161	84	14	3855	84	55	4
1900	6829	156	103	18	3246	79	57	13	3583	77	46	5
1901	6404	145	92	11	3158	71	49	7	3246	74	43	4
1902	6404	139	98	10	3150	70	43	4	3254	69	55	6
1903	6445	148	90	9	3171	77	39	7	3274	71	51	2
1904	6563	146	86	18	3263	76	42	11	3300	70	44	7
Averages of Years 1895 to 1904	8506	190	119	19	4937	113	71	13	3569	77	48	6
1905	6581	148	70	4	3237	74	40	3	3344	74	30	1

Table 3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases notified in Whole District.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria	8	...	...	7	1	...	...
Erysipelas	8	...	...	...	2	6	...
Scarlet Fever	8	...	2	4	2	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	25	...	2	11	6	6	...

Isolation Hospital at Trowbridge.

Table 4.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in Whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria and membraneous croup ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	5	...	...	...	3	2	...
Cancer, malignant disease	6	...	...	...	...	6	...
Bronchitis	5	...	1	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia	5	...	1	...	1	3	...
Pleurisy	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism, cirrhosis of liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition .	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart diseases	11	...	...	1	...	8	2
Accidents	2	1	...	...	...	1	..
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
All other causes	30	3	1	2	3	4	17
All causes	70	4	4	3	8	30	21

Table 5.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1—2 Months.	7—8 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes—							
Certified	...	1	1	2	1	1	2
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wasting Diseases—							
Congenital Defects	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus .	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
	...	1	1	2	1	1	2

Births in the year { legitimate.....146
illegitimate 2

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages .....70.

Population,

Estimated to middle of 1905.....6581.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1905.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories	6	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops	1		
Workplaces	27		
TOTAL	34		

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of Defects		Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	...
TOTAL	2	2	...

3.—Other Matters.

Homework.	Number of	
	Lists.	Outworkers.
The Glove Factory at Dilton Marsh is removed to the Urban District.	Nil.	
Workshops on the Register at the end of 1905:		
Tannery	1	
Engineering Works	1	
Agricultural Implement Works	1	
Retail Bakehouses	9	
Builders' Workshops	1	
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	13	

WALTER H. REED, M.O.H.

To the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural District Council.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Report

For the Year ending December, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my twenty-first Annual Report as Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for your district.

Main Roads.—Last spring considerable difficulties were caused by the sudden rise in the price of Mendip Limestone, owing to the amalgamation of the various firms supplying that class of stone, which necessitated the substitution of Westbury Ironworks Slag in lieu of Limestone, the supply of slag has not been regular and has caused inconvenience and delay in the repairs of the roads. I understand that the above mentioned amalgamation will be terminated next March and as a result I hope prices will resume their normal level.

A road improvement has been carried out at Edington, and a new iron fence substituted for the old wooden one between Edington and Tinhead.

District Highways.—The above remarks as to the materials for road repair apply also to the District Roads, beyond the ordinary repair and maintenance no new work has been carried out. Direct labour on these roads was substituted for the old system of contract, and I shall shortly be in a position to lay before you the comparative cost of the two systems for twelve months.

Building.—Building operations have not been so brisk as last year. Two Cottages at Dilton, six at Heywood and a small House at Yarnbrook have been erected.

Road Drainage.—The scheme for a new Joint Sewer and Sewage Disposal Works is yet in abeyance. A new Sewer has been laid in Lower Street, Road.

Chapmanslade Water Supply.—A Local Government Board Inquiry has been held, and approval having been given to the scheme, the works will be carried out in due course.

A plan for a new Sewer at Woodmarsh, North Bradley, has received your approval.

Steeple Ashton Water Supply.—A scheme for a much needed Water Supply to the village has been brought forward.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—I have to report some little improvement in the general condition of the Cowsheds, but there is still, in many cases, room for greater cleanliness in the Cowsheds, Yards and Piggeries, especially as regards frequent limewhiting of the walls and partitions of buildings, and the prompt removal of manure from the yards.

Schools.—I have inspected the Sanitary arrangements of the Schools in the district and find them satisfactory.

Bakehouses.—With two exceptions these have been kept satisfactory. Notices have been served to remedy defects in the two mentioned.

One hundred and twenty-three notices have been served relating to Sanitary matters.

I have made the usual periodical inspection of the district and nothing beyond the ordinary routine of work has called for attention.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. STANLEY.

Rural District of Westbury and Whorwellsdown.

Sanitary Inspector—Mr. W. H. STANLEY.

Address—Market House Chambers, Trowbridge.

Whether whole time devoted to duties of Sanitary Inspector or not? No.

Date of last Re-appointment—September, 1905.

Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department, during year ending 31st December, 1905.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical Officer of Health.

No. of Cases inquired into	7
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed ...	7

Houses.

No. Erected	9
No. Closed as unfit for Habitation	1

House Drains.

No. Laid or Re-Laid	9

Water Closets.

No. of additional W.C's provided	Water Closets not general in the District.

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided	10

Water Supply.

No. of Houses Supplied from Waterworks (during year)	12
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	3

Slaughter Houses.

No. Registered or Licensed	5
No. Regularly Inspected	5
No. Cleansed and Repaired	2

Dairies and Cowsheds.

No. of Persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under Supervision ...	79
No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Byelaws dealt with	6

Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses.

No. under Inspection	13
No. Certified for Lime-washing by Inspector...	2
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances	2

Animals kept so as to be a nuisance.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice ...	6

Clerical Work.

No. of Notices Served	123
No. of Notices Complied with	90
No. of Notices Outstanding	33